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Elimination of Kalamazoo County judicial election districts now rests on governor

LANSING – Legislation to eliminate the judicial election districts in Kalamazoo County is now headed to the governor once again, said Sen. Tom George, R-Texas Township.

“The citizens of Kalamazoo County have consistently voiced their support for the right to vote for all their district court judges and we hope the governor listens to them and this time signs the legislation,” George said. “It has been an injustice to the residents that they cannot vote for a judge who might hear their case. Let’s correct this problem so the entire county is responsible for the judges it elects.”

While the Kalamazoo County District Courts were consolidated in 1999, the three judicial election districts (City of Kalamazoo, City of Portage and Kalamazoo County) were not. Senate Bill 193 was introduced in response to concerns that since the recent consolidation of the Kalamazoo County district courts, a citizen may have a case presided over by a judge they were unable to vote for. George originally introduced the bill in the previous legislative session, where it was passed by both chambers but was vetoed by the governor.

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